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technical subjects connected with the work of the Hydrographic Office, $80,000.

BRANCH HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICES

Branch offices.

Contingent expenses of, designated.

For contingent expenses of branch hydrographic offices at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Savannah, New Orleans, San Francisco, Portland (Oregon), Portland (Maine), Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo, Duluth, Sault Sainte Marie, Seattle, Panama, San Juan (Porto Rico), Los Angeles, Honolulu, and Galveston, including furniture, fuel, lights, works, and periodicals, relating to hydrography, marine meteorology, navigation, surveying oceanography, and terrestrial magnetism, stationery, miscellaneous articles, rent and care of offices, care of time balls, car fare and ferriage in visiting merchant vessels, freight and express charges, telegrams, and other necessary expenses incurred in collecting the latest information for pilot charts, and for other purposes for which the offices were established, $19,020.

Employees.

For services of necessary employees at branch offices, $45,480.

CONTINGENT AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES, NAVAL OBSERVATORY

Naval Observatory.

Library, apparatus, repairs, miscellaneous supplies, etc.

For professional and scientific books, books of reference, periodicals, engravings, phtographs, and fixtures for the library; for apparatus and instruments, and for repairs of the same; for repairs to buildings (including quarters), fixtures, and fences; for cleaning, repair, and unkeep of grounds and roads; furniture and furnishings for offices and quarters, gas, chemicals, paints, and stationery, including transmission of public documents through the Smithsonian exchange, foreign postage; plants, seeds, and fertilizers; for fuel, oil, grease, pipe, wire, and other materials needed for the maintenance and repair of boilers, engines, heating apparatus, electric lighting and power, and water supply; purchase and maintenance of teams; maintenance, repair, and operation of motor trucks and passenger automobiles, and of horse-drawn vehicles; telegraph and telephone service; and other absolutely necessary expenses, $42,500.

Vehicles, etc.

Astronomical plant. Modernization, etc.

*Ante*, p. 556.

Contracts authorized.

For the purchase and installation of equipment, utilities, and appurtenances for astrographic and research work and modernization of the astronomical plant of the Naval Observatory, as authorized by the Act approved June 11, 1930 (46 Stat., p. 556), $50,000, and the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to enter into contracts or other obligations for this purpose at a cost in the aggregate not to exceed $160,000.

Approved, February 28, 1931.

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February 28, 1931.
[S. 4750.]
[Public, No. 746.]

**CHAP. 327.**—An Act To authorize alterations and repairs to certain naval vessels.

Battleships.
Appropriation authorized for modernizing designated.
Subject to treaty limitations.
Vol. 43, p. 1655.
*Post*, pp. 1577, 2858.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That for the purpose of modernizing the United States ships New Mexico, Mississippi, and Idaho alterations and repairs to such vessels are hereby authorized at a total cost not to exceed the sum of $30,000,000, in all. The alterations to the capital ships herein authorized shall be subject to the limitations prescribed in the treaty limiting naval armaments, ratified August 17, 1923.

Approved, February 28, 1931.